

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the land

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov

Conservation Measurement Tool Questions & Activities List

The next set of forms is part of the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). These questions are to be answered by you based on your current farming practices. Be honest, because what you record here will become part of your contract to maintain for the life of the contract.

The first two pages “Conservation Measurement Tool Ag Land – General Inventory” needs to be completed with your entire farming operation in mind.

The next two pages “Conservation Measurement Tool Water Bodies/Water Courses” needs to be completed trying to describe the average condition on your farm.

The next six pages, “Cropland CMT Questions,” will only be completed if you have cropland in your operation. These questions may need to be answered more than once, based on your rotations and management systems. For example: If all of your cropland is in a corn-soybean rotation using no-till and part is tilled, this question will need to be answered twice. (Answer once for the tilled area and again for the no-till area.) Another example may be that part of your farm is in a corn-soybean rotation and another part is continuous corn; this form would need to be completed twice for each rotation. If you use a long-term rotation with grass on part of your farm, these questions need to be answered for the land following that rotation.

You have been provided one copy of this form, if more are needed this can be copied or additional forms are available at your NRCS office.

The next four pages, “Conservation Measurement Tool Pastureland,” will only need to be completed if you have pasture in your operation. If you have more than one management system on your farm for pasture these questions will need to be answered for each system.

Congratulations! You have now completed the CMT Tool documenting your current operation. The next step is to identify some activities that you are not currently doing, that you are willing to add to your program. The next three pages, “CSP – Conservation Activity List,” have the most common enhancements used in Iowa. A complete list of enhancements is available at your NRCS office or can be downloaded at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

The far righthand column and the next column to the left in this chart tell you what the enhancements are, and give a brief description. The third and fourth columns tell you if the enhancement can be used in cropland or in pastures. If you have cropland, you must choose at least one cropland enhancement. If you have pasture, you must choose at least one enhancement to implement into your pasture system.

Behind the “CSP Conservation Activities List” is a set of job sheets that match each of the Enhancements on the Activities List that tell you exactly what is expected of you to successfully install each enhancement. Once you have identified your enhancements this section is complete.